

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JUNE 18, 2007

WILLIAM S. HART MUSEUM

William S. Hart was a silent-screen cowboy film star at the beginning of the century. In the 1920's, he commissioned Arthur Kelly to build him a mansion in Newhall. When he died he left his home and the surrounding land to the County of Los Angeles to be operated and maintained as a public park and museum.

The grounds of the 260 acre estate are operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Hart's mansion is operated as a museum by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. The museum boasts of an impressive collection of western themed art. It holds oil paintings, watercolors, ink drawings and bronze sculptures done by such notable artists as Charles Russell, Joe De Young, Charles Christadoro and Frederic Remington. Along with this, the museum contains countless movie props from the 1920's and authentic Native American artifacts.

Over the years, the mansion and its collections have deteriorated and require significant renovations to preserve them for the enjoyment of future generations.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors allocate \$200,000 to the Museum of Natural History to be used for collection conservation projects, and \$1,000,000 to the Department of Parks and Recreation to be used to for deferred maintenance projects at the William S. Hart Museum from the 5th District various capital projects account.

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